

Testimony Concerning SB 253
Stephanie Robidoux
Volunteer, Adopter and Foster - Big Fluffy Dog Rescue

I would like to thank the Environmental Committee for the opportunity to express my concerns on SB 253, An Act Concerning Revisions to the Animal Importation Statutes.

I am a registered voter in Somers, CT, and I am a volunteer, adopter and foster for Big Fluffy Dog Rescue.

I wholeheartedly agree that each animal coming into our state, or any state for that matter, should be thoroughly examined by a veterinarian. Responsible rescues know the importance of this matter and get each dog examined- and treated if need be, before they start their journey to their new foster home or forever home. These responsible rescues always make sure each dog is healthy and gets the necessary vaccinations, medication and spaying or neutering that they need. All of those things come with a price, and that price is rarely covered by the adoption fee they receive from the adopter. If rescues have to pay for a second, or even a third examination when the dogs come to our state, it will be devastating to the rescue. The funds simply are not there. I do think that proper paperwork stating that the dog is in good health and signed by the examining veterinarian is necessary for each dog entering our state, and I believe that is sufficient.

I have three dogs- Henry, Jenna and Franklin, that I adopted through Big Fluffy Dog Rescue. I, like many other fosters out there, have earned the affectionate "Foster Failure" label. We started out fostering the three of them, and ended up keeping them. Not to say I haven't fostered and sent other dogs off to loving homes, these three just weren't leaving. They have changed my life in so many ways and I can't imagine it without them. I never thought I could be a "dog person", but now I wouldn't have it any other way.

I strongly urge you to support this bill which will help alleviate hardships on caring citizens and organizations who are working to protect and rescue animals.

Thank you,

Stephanie Robidoux
37 Old Farm Road
Somers, CT 06071

stephanierobidoux@gmail.com